

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND OTHER MAJOR BARRIERS FOR RURAL SOCIETY TO GAIN HIGHER EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

*The gateway to view the world of Higher education is the proficiency in the English language. Students are turning out into scholars, but lack of English skills is making them worried to have a degree of higher studies. In this world, hundred and millions of Indians live a simple life because the elite community prefer English. The discrimination has become very systemic such that the middle class and elite class people send their children to English private schools, whereas the poor people send their children to the government schools that teach in mother tongue. As mandated by the ruling elite, even the government jobs and universities require English fluency for getting jobs. Hence, the socioeconomic status of a person in Indian society is in line with the English language fluency. It is unconceivable that the maximum number of people in India are being troubled by the lack of English language. In India, higher education is suffering from appropriate culture and less competition and as a result, quality studies are not done. Higher education in India has a very rich history, but at present it does not seem to be effective. It is good to have quantitative growth, but the qualitative aspect is seen to be missing. Yashpal Committee has conducted a research to work on this issue and has revealed issues and recommendations for elevating higher education standards. This paper focusses on the barriers of higher education, their suggestions and Ph.D.'s quality.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Quality, Fluency, Education & Barriers*

**Received:** Jun 14, 2018; **Accepted:** Jul 04, 2018; **Published:** Aug 21, 2018; **Paper Id.:** IJCMSAUG20183

### INTRODUCTION

According to Agarwal (2015), the Indian higher education system lacks in the culture and competition. The words of Pavan Agrawal, the secretary of Higher Education of India shows the authenticity of the issues in higher education in India. It would be relevant to provide a small history about India's higher education before proceeding with the discussion and after taking cognizance.

### BARRIERS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR RURAL SOCIETY

A project on English language analyzes the results obtained from a survey taken from the college-level students in rural colleges and semi urban regions in Karnataka. This survey focused on the causes that might have hindered English learning in the students those who participated in the survey, and it also focused on the perspectives of the students about learning English. The results showed that most of the students are suffering from this syndrome and the reasons are as follows:

- Unpleasant feelings or fear about learning English.
- Lack of triple A – Awareness, Aptitude and Attitude.

- Lack of confidence.
- Imperfect phobia and err phobia
- Lack of will power
- Different socio-economic backgrounds
- Teacher fronted Amnesia
- Less teachers and more student syndrome
- Interference of family
- Lack of interest as their mother tongues serve all the purpose of daily living.
- Poor background and environment is not supportive.
- Lack of general knowledge and the environment.

The main objective of this research is to examine some reasons that have influence on the English language's effect on the students in Karnataka rural and urban under graduate students. The study is also conducted to know the perspectives about learning English among non-English majors in Karnataka region especially in Bangalore. Some possible solutions and suggestive measures are identified to remove the barriers in English learning among the students. Cultural differences contribute tremendously when it comes to language teaching and learning. The problems may include the education systems differences, learning and teaching styles, learning conditions, differences in learning between Eastern and Western cultures and differences in language needs for job market. People who had experience of living or being educated for a certain period in the West might have observed that the students are not scared to question or use the target language even while creating errors. It is seen through this study that in Karnataka, the students prefer to stay silent even when they wish to participate and ask questions, because the students are very conscious about making mistakes in front of their classmates. In India, we have Confucian culture that needs compromise among the people. When this culture is applied in language learning, it is seen that the students are reluctant in expressing their views loudly due to their fear of losing face. In addition to this, there are some sayings that discourage communication in the class rooms. Some of the examples are as follows: Silence is gold; a real man should be good at thinking, but weak at speaking; it's the noisy bird that is easily shot dead don't speak out unless spoken to; keep silent unless you can burst on the scene like a bombshell; keep your mouth shut but your eyes open. In the research it is also found that some students are afraid of English and they hate it too. From where die this fear arise? Most of the language teachers in India today were the students yesterday. A part of the worst experience included is the physical punishment given by the teachers who also insult the students in front of their friends and classmates, and sometimes before the parents if the students have not performed well in examinations. The situation has changed somewhat, but still the physical punishment has not changed in some institutions. Such a profile of college and school education is not at all exclusive to Karnataka in the context of Asia; it is surely very different from the condition in other advanced nations. One more possible source of fear is even the adults who have studied English without grade pressure, sometimes do not dare to speak English in front of other people due to the fear of committing errors. Among seven factors, a fear of making errors influenced the students' willingness in contributing in oral classroom communication.

## **BARRIERS OF EDUCATION SYSTEM IN IMPROVING QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Quantity and quality are equally important in any field of human activity and it is applicable for education as well. In 2009, 25,951 colleges and 504 universities did not show any indication of helping the growing requirements of high education (India, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource, 2015). 1500 more universities are suggested in the 11th Five Year Plan during 2007-12 by National Knowledge Commission (NKC). So, with rapid pace, numerical growth is taking place, but the education was not thought in terms of quality aspects. Due to insufficient infrastructure in terms of library, faculty and equipment in computer laboratories, the higher education's quality is facing many barriers. Few barriers that hamper the improvement of quality in higher education are:

- Curriculum stays more or less the same for number of years, whereas the trend and changes in the society takes place in fast sequence.
- For the new hires, fixed salary has mostly affected the quality of education provided to the young minds of the nation, which leads to loss of inspiration and passion and keeps them away from education profession.
- Single measure of experience in the evaluation of performance without any responsibility loses the enthusiasm of tutors and eventually the quality of education worsens gradually.
- In work, no autonomy or little space of period to work in imaginative manner, cannot give a chance to search for new knowledge. Even capable tutors are depressed of this sort of academic liberty to mold the future job of students.
- The students who finish their studies of UG and PG programs do not have much employability in job marketplace.
- Conservative and not well-organised classroom teaching combined by weak demonstration skills unfavorably affect the students' interest.
- Higher education commercialization by self-financed colleges to earn more money is the reason of giving less infrastructures to the students and insufficient amenities and incentives to teachers.
- The fact of poor reading habit of the teachers is that the teachers attend the classes just to teach with stereotype teaching outline, using the same study materials for years. This refutes the basic training to the students to face the real world.

The Government of India appointed the National Knowledge Commission to get rid of these blocks, with an opinion to generate knowledge-based economy with intelligent efforts for the nation. On 13th of June 2005, the formation of National Knowledge has come out as the Indian Prime Minister's higher level advisory body with the objective of changing India into a Knowledge Society. 3000 recommendations were submitted by the Knowledge Commission on 27 focus areas during its 3.5 years term. NKC was given an order to direct reforms and guide policy in the areas like science, education, technology, industry, agriculture, and E-Governance. To have a look, endorsements for first phase for higher education are emphasized:

- Over-regulation of Higher Education system is under-governed. Therefore, a dire requirement to launch Independent Regulatory Authority of Higher Education (IRAHE), so nationwide universities can offer education with admission on all- India basis in the highest quality.
- Restructuring\revision of curricula at least once in three years.
- Instead of just testing once in a year, introduce continuous assessment system.
- Universities should convert into research hub
- Assessment of teachers and courses by students as well as peer evaluation of teachers by apparent teachers
- To attract and retain-talented faculty members, conscious efforts should be taken through better-working situations united with incentives for performance.
- Labs, libraries and connectivity must be watched and updated on regular basis.
- There are suggestions for around 1500 more universities nationwide, which would rise the gross enrolment ratio at 15 % by 2015.
- Vice-Chancellors appointments should be freed from indirect or direct interventions from the side of governments, it must be based on the search process and peer judgement.
- A serious requirement of reform in the structure of universities' governance
- Confirming a skilled management headed by the appointments of able Vice-Chancellor and registrar, these appointments must be based on the administrative and academic credentials.
- Allow accountable environments for research in universities like digital media, in parallel with better libraries, funds, and better laboratories.
- Improve the ICT infrastructures. More quality through Ph. D. (India, More Quality Ph. Ds., 2008): From the phase 2 recommendations of 2008, issue of more quality through Ph. D. is important to refer here:
- To attract the young minds for teaching careers at all levels and academic research, inaugurate a nationwide publicity campaign.
- Introduction to the four-year well-organized courses to allow straight entry into Ph.D.
- Introduction to UG and PG students to cutting edge research
- Increasing transparency and efficiency in the administration of universities at all levels.
- Promote and support cross-disciplinary research and teaching programs.
- Begin management education program in I.I.Ts.
- Graduates should be adequately visible to the experience of interdisciplinary that can withstand them when the job demand market changes
- Practical experience should be accompanied by theoretical knowledge

- Promoting association between development and research units within universities and industry
- Current regulating bodies must be included within a national commission.
- Introduction to students at UG level in various disciplines like social sciences, humanities, athletics etc. in an integrated manner
- IIMs and IIT, our best run institutions should plank to be the models of all-round excellence
- The job of the universities is not only to create knowledge to young people but also to show them the opportunities to generate their own knowledge.
- One needs severe engagement in research to explain at the university level effectively.
- Plan of redesigning the syllabus to prosper, assessment and exam pattern must be changed. • UG students must get chances to cooperate with the best university faculty, especially the senior faculty of PG level.
- For newly employed teachers, the full-fledged orientation program should focus on communication, curriculum, and assessment skills.
- New types of course designing for professional; learning in all fields from architecture to a management and from medical to engineering.
- Setting up a state level council for speedy growth of the skills necessary in the current phase of Indian economic development.
- To create the course and evaluation system, teachers should have ample autonomy in academic matters. Few explanations for improving quality of Higher Education after the snapshot of NKC and rejuvenation and renovation committee of two renowned personalities i.e., Mr. Pitroda and Prof. Yashpal, few observations are done to progress the higher education quality. They are stated here: Committees ruled by Pitroda, Kothari and Yashpal committee are approved that education autonomous bodies must be free from pressure of power and party politics. Open publicity operation should be started for recruiting better teachers to get rid of the crisis of good teachers and the short fall at UG and PG level. The new teacher selection must not be based on the interview and research work by them, in addition to the aptitude and interest in presentation skill and teaching profession in selection would give a better slot.
- Fixed-pay system for the new recruits should be urgently stopped by swapping the pay to motivate the new entrants and honor knowledge in teaching profession.

## CONCLUSIONS

The present article has made a detailed study on the major barriers for rural society to gain higher education in English language. The article has stated the major barriers for rural society to gain higher education in English language. The article has not only highlighted the obstacles of higher education but also suggested some of the important measures which would aim at improving the higher education in English language among the rural society. The measures which the article has carried out would yield the best results for the upliftment of higher education in English language.

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